

It is distressing to hear that so many countries have been devastated by recent floods and mudslides causing deaths, loss of homes and property, crops, infrastructure and displacement of people.

Flooding in Sri Lanka has resulted in deaths of about 23 persons during a week of monsoon floods in the Central, Northern and Eastern provinces especially Batticaloa and Trincomalee once severely bitten by terrorism.

steeply on incomes over \$100,000.

Floods are not always caused by heavy rainfall but by seawater flooding, tidal flooding, run-off rivers and dams, and especially flash flooding due to defective and inadequate urban drainage.

It is true that floods have both negative and positive results. Floods can bring relief for people in drought-stricken areas whose crops and livestock are affected by short-

result in warm to hot temperatures, severe droughts and rising sea levels.

The belief that the earth would become increasingly parched has prompted most countries to impose water restrictions to



In Sri Lanka

conserve water.

Construction of dams across major rivers to

store water for future use to ward off dry seasons consequent on less rainfall has made them almost dangerously full in times of torrential rains and flooding.

The recent floods clearly show the flawed notion of releasing water from the dams before they breach almost at the same time as flash flood waters enter the river system effectively contributing to the deluge.

This belief in anticipated droughts and parched land to which most countries cling on leads to building on areas normally subject to flooding which becomes almost the first easy target of rushing flood waters.

# Floods and Global Warming

541,000 persons were displaced and had to take shelter in 275 camps set up by the government, bringing the total number of displaced persons to about 1,081,000.



In Brazil

age of water and can be a natural way for wetland regions, swamps and native waterways to survive. They will also reduce high salt levels in lagoons and land-locked lakes.

The long history of floods shows that the largest known floods of the Quaternary Period (about 1.64 million years ago to the present) resulted from breaching dams formed by glaciers or landslides. The late-Pleistocene Missoula

The recent round of floods has caused damage to the economy estimated at 50 billion rupees, and affecting over 1.2 persons in 18 districts. Thousands of acres of cultivation, about 450 irrigation schemes and at least 75,000 cattle including thousands of poultry and other domesticated animals have also been destroyed by the floods.

Sri Lanka depends on monsoon rains for purposes of irrigation and generation of power but the seasonal, relentless down-pour caused deaths and damage to homes, crops and infrastructure in low-lying areas and mountainous regions.

In Brazil, the heaviest rainfall in 44 years caused mudslides and floods that swept away homes, killing nearly 471 persons and leaving 4,600 homeless in Rio de Janeiro and San Paulo states.

In Philippines, 42 persons had been killed as a result of on-going torrential rains and landslides rendering about 400,000 homeless. About one-third of the Philippines' 80 provinces were reported to be affected. The damage to crops and infrastructure was estimated to be around 1 billion pesos (US\$20 million).

Australia faced the most damaging floods in the state of Queensland including the capital city Brisbane. Nearly 70 towns and over 200,000 people were affected and the damage initially was assessed at Aus\$1 billion.

Three-fourth of the state of Queensland was declared a disaster zone. 35 persons were killed by the floods and nine persons were reported missing.

The floods of Queensland wiped off billions of Australian dollars from the national GDP. Floods will also cost the supermarket chains tens of millions of dollars.

The Queensland disaster was followed by floods in the Victorian state and more than 50 communities in western and central Victoria were affected as a result.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard has announced a plan to raise \$5.6 billion for flood damage and to reconstruct Queensland by scrapping not-so-important capital expenditure projects, and imposing a one-off 12-month flood levy that cuts in gently on incomes over \$50,000 but rises

floods in the Pacific North-western United States were some of the largest ever to have occurred on earth. The Lake Bonneville flood of about 14,500 years ago resulted from nearly 5,000 cubic kilometres water spilling out of the Great Basin into the Snake River drainage.

In general, larger river basins produce larger floods.

Floods mainly occur due to rainfall and some do occur due to snowmelt, rain/snowmelt, and snowmelt/ice jam. Floods on large rivers from ice jams result from break-up jams in which dislodged river ice accumulates at river bends forcing bonding upstream and rapid release of



Flood in Australia

Nevertheless, it is hard to fix the blame on any government or institution for this highly complex natural disaster.

It is really a war against nature which, of course, has the power to override man and have its own way.

(The writer was a Lecturer at the Sri Lanka School of Social Work and has worked as the Inter-country Child Care Consultant in the South Australian Department of Community Welfare and Senior Social Worker attached to the Commonwealth Department of Social Security, Tamworth, NSW)



Dr. Mathu H. Liyanage

PhD in Creative Writing (Ireland)  
Master of Letters in Creative Writing (Australia)  
BA (Hons) in Philosophy (London)  
Higher Diploma in Advanced Freelance Journalism (Australia)  
Special Certificate in Advanced Social Work (Philippine Women's University)  
Diploma in Social Work (Sri Lanka)

water when the ice dams breach

During the second half of the 20th century, largest floods have occurred in Zaire (Congo River basin, Russia (Amur) and (Ob-Irtysh), Chad (Chari), Australia (Murray), Bangladesh (Ganges) and (Brahmaputra), Senegal (Senegal), Vietnam (Mekong) and Kazakhstan (Amu Darya).

The problem we face today is that most countries are obsessed with climate change, dryness brought about by global warming due to human activities which

35 පිටෙක්

හොඳින් විසින් තහනම් කරනු ලැබ තිබූ 'මුස්ලිම් සංකීර්ණය' නමැති සංවිධානයේ සිටි පිරිසක් විසින් 'වසා' නමින් නව දේශපාලන පක්ෂයක් ලියාපදිංචි කිරීම සඳහා ඊටීජීඒ දේශපාලන මණ්ඩලය වෙත ඇදුම් ඉදිරිපත් කර තිබුණේ 1996 වසරේ සිටය. එම මණ්ඩලයේ සභාපති ධුරං හොසිනිගේ පක්ෂයට හිමිව තිබූ අතර හොසිනිගේ අකමැත්ත නිසා මණ්ඩලය නව පක්ෂය ලියාපදිංචියට අවසර දීම දිනෙන් දින කල් දමමින් සිටියේය. පෙබරවාරි 20 දා ඊටීජීඒ අධිකරණයක් මගින් වසා පක්ෂය ලියාපදිංචිය සඳහා අවසර ලබාදුන්නේය. මෙතැන් සිට ඊටීජීඒව මගින් කරනු ඇත්තේ නව දේශපාලන මාවතකය.



මේ සටනක ලියන මොහොත වන විට විප්ලවයටත් ඇරඹී ඊටීජීඒව මස්සේ අරාබි ලෝකය කරනා නමින් ආරම්භ කළ ආණ්ඩු වෙතත් කිරීමේ නව දේශපාලන ක්‍රමවේදය ලිහිල්ව, යේමනය, මස්සේ තවත් ඊටීජීඒ ගණනාවක් වෙත පැතිර යමින් පැවති අතර නමින් එල්ල වන ජනතා විරෝධය හමුවේ ලිහිල්ව නායක මුට්ටුරු ගමාරි ඊටීජීඒ ජනතාවගේ හිස් මතට ගුවනින් බෝම්බ හෙළන්නට පටන්ගෙන ඇති බව මාධ්‍ය වාර්තා කර තිබේ. ගමාරි පාලනය විසින් ඊටීජීඒ කළ සිදුවන මාධ්‍ය වාර්තාකරණය මුලතිව්ගේ වාගේ වාරණයකට ලක්කර අන්තර් ජාලයට පිවිසීමට පවා අවහිර කොට ඇති බැවින් ලිහිල්ව සිදුවෙමින් පවතින දේ පිලිබඳ පැහැදිලි විකුණා ලබාගැනීම අපහසුය. එසේ වුවද මේ ජන ජාලයේ අවසානය කවරාකාර වේදැයි ඉදිරියේදී අපට දැකගත්තේ නැතිවෙත.

ලෝකය හරහා ගමා යමින් තිබෙන ආණ්ඩු වෙතත් කරන මේ ක්‍රමවේදය බොහෝ දෙනෙක් හඳුන්වනු ලබන්නේ 'ඊටීජීඒ විප්ලවය' නමිනි. ආණ්ඩු විරෝධී උද්ඝෝෂණ සංවිධානය මුළුමනින්ම වාගේ ඊටීජීඒ වෙත අධික මස්සේ සිදු කිරීම ඊටීජීඒ ගේ ක්‍රමවේදය මේ වන විට ලිහිල්ව ආක්‍රමණයට ලක්වී තිබේ. එම ඊටීජීඒ ක්‍රමවේදය අවහිර කරනු ලැබ තිබේ.

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